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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Eastern Sudan Women Development Organization, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[16 February 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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The Impact of the Unilateral Coercive Measures on Sudanese Health Situation

The Sudanese Civil Society Organizations have been monitoring with great concern the raised unilateral coercive measures imposed by the US government since 1988 on Sudan. The sanctions being renewed annually resulted in depriving Sudan of foreign aid in application of US laws.

By imposition of such unilateral coercive measures the Sudanese people have been affected in all sectors such as banks, software, transportation, railway, education, aviation, agriculture, livestock, industry, economy, with particular negative impact on health that affected a lot of peaople, especially women, children and the elderly.

The negative economic sanctions manifested in the health sector, especially on the pharmaceutical sector with great negative impact on the import of a private life-saving drugs. Management and research related to diseases in general and tropical diseases in particular is therefore considered to be the most serious impact of unilateral coercive measures with particular emphasis on community health, affecting humble Sudanese citizen.

The negative impact in the areas of international cooperation i.e. technical support, training and capacity building as well as transfer of modern technology were also noticed with great concern.

Based on the reports of the World Health Organization for the years 2003 -2006 about 62% parts centers, 51% basic health services, 30% of clinics and 71% of health centers were severely affected by such unilateral coercive measures. As a result World Health Organization report pointed out that the general level of health in Sudan lies below the average of the health situation in the Middle East and North Africa.

The funding and technical support accomplished in collaboration with the Michigan University Research was discontinued in 1994 because of the US embargo, a matter which reflected negatively on malaria research (more prevalent in Sudan). The disabling of working unit of Medical Parasitology and Laboratory of Tropical Medicine especially for leishmaniasis, and schistosomiasis has weighed unilateral coercive measures on advanced diagnostics projects for Disease Control. The disruption of modern scientific research projects and the inability to obtain materials and research aids has led to the proliferation and worsening of tropical diseases.

Economic sanctions also manifested negatively on the elements of the health services system of infrastructure, sanitation and low health units care preliminary compared with population growth as well as the lack of modern medical equipment, materials and laboratory fluids as well as ambulances which transport patients and equipment.

We as Sudanese Civil Society express our deep concern about the deteriorating health situation in Sudan as a result of negative impact of economic sanctions. In fact, The unilateral coercive measures have prevented the delivery of all US medical equipment including computer programs and special components that relate to modern medical diagnostic techniques. As a result, the poor patients especially the elderly, women and children were seriously affected.

In order to preserve the lives of many patients, especially women and children, we hereby raise our voice and we call upon the International community as well as the Human Rights Council to draw especial attention on the serious impact of unilateral economic impact on the Sudanese people with special emphasis on the following concerns:

• We call upon Human Rights Council in particular and the international community at large to provide needed assistance and take the necessary decisions to end unilateral coercive measure on Sudan being an unfair to the people of Sudan, as well as, a clear violation of human rights.

• Appreciate the efforts of the Human Rights Council and its relevant resolutions on human rights and unilateral coercive measures, and in particular the decision 27 / L2 appointed Special thematic Rapporteur mandated to address and manage the negative effects of these measures.

• We call upon Human Rights Council to continue its genuine efforts to appoint the special Rapporteur in order to cooperate with the people of the affected country to manage damage caused by the imposition of these sanctions.

• We call upon the UN Secretary General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide financial and logistical support for this decision to be applied and enable the special Rapporteur to undertake and accomplish his mission.